

Inside Today:



Finals Schedule Released

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VALLEY STAR

Los Angeles Valley College

Vol. 43, No. 13

Thursday, January 9, 1992

Van Nuys, California

Indecisive board debates 'flesh bond'



POINTING OUT THE FACTS — Trustee David Lopez-Lee and student trustee Ron Sterbenz participate in a November board

meeting. Sterbenz dubbed the motion a "self-grandization" and will fight it. He worries that classes could be in jeopardy.

FILE PHOTO / Valley Star

Golden girls bid farewell to Valley

By EVA YELLOZ
Staff Writer

One man's loss is another's gain. Chris & Pitt's Restaurant in North Hollywood lost Della Paradiso Cullen in 1975 and LAVC's cafeteria opened its arms to her.

This little blonde-haired woman, who dons a plastic apron over her simple polyester frock, and wears a pair of heavy glasses on her face, also sports a quick wit and a genuine smile.

Cullen has now reluctantly bid farewell to her "home away from home."

Slicing bagels, spreading cream cheese, preparing salads and sandwiches, wrapping pastries and cashiering have occupied Cullen's hours from 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., five days a week, for the past 17 years.

"Working here has been a joy," she said. "I'll hate leaving this place."

When Cullen started working at the cafeteria, she says they used to serve real baked turkey with all the trimmings and roast beef. But, today's bill-of fare is what's most economical and fastest to prepare.

At home, she specializes in cooking her family's native Sicilian dishes.

"The greatest part of working

here is seeing all the young kids."

Stress on the job has never been a problem for Cullen; although she was inundated with serving throngs of students.

In all the years at Valley, Cullen cannot recall a student who did not treat her with respect. Della attributes students' affection for her because she always tried to get them what they needed, sort of like having a mother away from home.

Through the double-doors, another smiling face comes marching through. Cullen's friend and co-worker of 15 years, veteran June Livio seats herself beside her colleague-in-kitchen and steals part

of the limelight.

Cullen doesn't mind and says, "We're like a family here. We work in harmony." Then after a moment of thought, Livio adds mockingly, "Well maybe there's some occasional bickering," and they both start to laugh.

Both Cullen and Livio volunteer their spare time to St. Jane Frances Church in North Hollywood.

During summer vacations they dole out food and clothing to the needy.

Cullen and Livio reflect on their years together in the cafeteria and both say they will miss their fellow workers and the comradery between them.



SHARA WELLS / Valley Star

June Livio and Della Cullen

News Briefs

Admissions update

Applications are still being accepted for new and continuing students.

Program change day has been extended for all students registered for Spring '92 classes. It begins Jan. 22 from 1 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and continues through Jan. 23 from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Students will be able to add open classes only. No students will be put on standby lists.

Open enrollment for new students begins on Jan. 24 by appointment and continues through

Jan. 31. Continuing students who have missed registration may enroll at walk-in registration during those dates.

Women's empowerment
The Pro choice student union will be holding a public forum on "The women's movement through the eyes of ethnic minorities and working-class women."

The forum is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Monarch Hall.

Art show

MEChA is sponsoring a Chicano art display.

The show will be held through Jan. 11 in the Fireside Room from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Health care enrollment

The District's annual open enrollment period for hospital-medical and dental plans for 1992 will end on Jan. 24 at 4 p.m.

The new coverage will be effective Feb 1, 1992.

ACCESS testing

Nursing applicants for Fall '92 who do not have ACCESS Scores within five years, the test will be given in Jan. 15, at 5 p.m., in Bungalow 13.

Euthanasia

The Collegians for Life will hold an open forum on euthanasia, the right to die, or the right to kill.

The forum will be presented by Gloria Miller, R.N. on Jan. 15 at 12 noon in the Fireside Room.

Final Examination Schedule

Fall semester 1991

Tuesday, January 21 - Wednesday, January 29, 1992

Final examinations **MUST** be held on the **DAY** and **TIME** scheduled, and in the regularly assigned classroom and should not exceed two hours in duration.

Except for classes of less-than semester length, the **LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION FOR ALL DAY AND EVENING CLASSES IS** Saturday, January 18, 1992. Classes which meet only one day per week (modular classes) will have their finals at the first regular class meeting time after January 18.

Classes of less-than-semester length (4, 5, 6, 8, or 9-week classes) will have their final exam at the last meeting of the class.

EVENING CLASSES (those meeting after 4 p.m.) will have their final exam as follows:

Monday classes: January 27
Tuesday classes: January 21
Wednesday classes: January 22
Thursday classes: January 23.

DAY CLASSES (those meeting before 4 p.m.) will have their final exam as indicated below:

CLASSES MEETING ON	7 a.m. & 7:30 M or W or F	7 a.m. & 7:30 Tu or TH	8 a.m. & 8:30 M or W or F	8 a.m. & 8:30 Tu or TH	9 a.m. & 9:30 M or W or F	9 a.m. & 9:30 Tu or TH
FINAL ON	Wed. Jan. 29 8-10	Tues. Jan. 21 8-10	Wed. Jan. 22 8-10	Thurs. Jan. 23 8-10	Fri. Jan. 24 8-10	Tues. Jan. 28 8-10
CLASSES MEETING ON	10 a.m. & 10:30 M or W or F	10 a.m. & 10:30 Tu or TH	11 a.m. & 11:30 M or W or F	11 a.m. & 11:30 Tu or TH	Noon or 12:30 M or W or F	Noon or 12:30 Tu or TH
FINAL ON	Mon. Jan. 27 10:30- 12:30	Tues. Jan. 21 10:30- 12:30	Wed. Jan. 22 10:30- 12:30	Thurs. Jan. 23 10:30- 12:30	Fri. Jan. 24 10:30- 12:30	Tues. Jan. 28 10:30- 12:30
CLASSES MEETING ON	1 p.m. & 1:30 M or W or F	1 p.m. & 1:30 Tu or TH	2 p.m. & 2:30 M or W or F	2 p.m. & 2:30 Tu or TH	3 p.m. & 3:30 M or W or F	3 p.m. & 3:30 Tu or TH
FINAL ON	Wed. Jan. 22 1-3	Tues. Jan. 21 1-3	Fri. Jan. 24 1-3	Thurs. Jan. 23 1-3	Mon. Jan. 27 1-3	Tues. Jan. 28 1-3

All Saturday classes — Sat. Jan. 25, same time as class
In case of conflicts or for makeup exams, see instructor

Ethics on the ropes and losing

By JAE LEVINE WEISS
Staff Writer

As a staff writer on the Valley Star, I have had a forum from which I was able to share my concerns about inequity and injustice. I have been given virtually free reign to express my outrage on topics concerning human dignity in a way that might encourage others to take action.

Ironically, at the Valley Star, the very place where the exposure of wrongs was nurtured, a grave injustice has occurred; an injustice so severe that I feel I must leave the Valley College's journalism program, and will be completing my education at another school.

My sense of outrage will not permit me to continue to participate in a department that has been corrupted through unfair bias and divisiveness.

Many on the Star staff share my anger. The wounded feelings of everyone involved in this scandal have gone unaddressed by most of the faculty.

As journalists, just as we would report a controversy affecting students' educations if it occurred on any other part of the campus, we feel compelled to share our outrage with our readers in this, the final issue produced by this semester's Valley Star staff.

Anna Villa is a young woman who has worked earnestly for the past seven years to become a career journalist.

Through high school, where she was the editor in chief of the newspaper, to Valley where she has been a staff writer and page editor for several semesters, Villa's flexibility, determination, congeniality,

dependability and hard work made her the optimum candidate for next semester's Editor in Chief position.

Chris Mayda, who was also interested in the job, is a first semester journalism student who has yet to be on the staff of the Star.

With the unwavering support of Tony Cifarelli, the Star's faculty advisor, Mayda has campaigned tirelessly to become nothing less than Editor in Chief this next semester.

Mayda has never even attended any of the paper's weekly meetings where she might have observed the methods used to critique and improve the paper, to understand procedures and policies, or to develop a rapport with the returning students who would be working under her.

Mayda's appointment was made by a faculty committee over the objection of virtually the entire student staff. The only justification offered by Roger Graham, department chair, for the faculty's selection of Mayda as next semester's Editor in Chief, was that Mayda is "planning to transfer to UCLA (which has no undergraduate journalism program) in the fall."

It seems the faculty's rationale for their unpopular selection is that they did not want to deprive Mayda of her last and only chance to hold the position, despite her apparent lack of qualifications.

Her sponsor, Cifarelli, believes our collective anger is due to the fact that we are, "unwilling to accept true brilliance."

Although Mayda has no experience whatsoever on the Valley Star, she has one powerful point in her favor. She appears to be a personal friend of Cifarelli.

This, we were told, was in no way a factor in the decision to bypass Villa, a student who had diligently worked her way up and had earned not only the respect of the other staff members, but who more than amply possesses all the qualifications to do the job.

Cifarelli took an aggressive pro-Mayda stand from the very beginning. In order to block any competition which might endanger her appointment as Editor in Chief, other applicants were put off, turned away, or were met with outright hostility.

In the case of Anna Villa, the staff was initially informed that she had lost her chance to be interviewed because her application had never been turned in. This later turned out to be completely untrue.

The interviews were originally scheduled during the week that Villa was out of the country. After her application was begrudgingly acknowledged by Cifarelli, Villa was given a five-minute interview before the faculty committee.

There is more to life than what meets the eye and that it is our responsibility to protect the fragile balance of nature.

To the History Department I owe thanks for giving me a door to the future through the past.

But it is to the Journalism Department I owe the greatest debt for it is here that I learned the most valuable lessons:

That I have a voice which is meant to be used.

That trust and loyalty are values to precious to waste on those who do not have them.

That I must never let down my guard against injustice.

That even under the guise of education, the most heinous corruption and abuse can occur.

That working hard for something and climbing the ladder of success by following protocol will get you nothing if the establishment decides against you in favor of their own designs.

That rather than teach you new ideas and skills you will be replaced with someone who claims to have those ideas and skills already.

That the unqualified can walk in and obtain the very position sought by those who have worked hard and waited their turn—all under the umbrella of "education" and what is best for "the Paper."

To the Biology Department I owe thanks for teaching me a new way to see the world, for teaching me that

It seems clear to many of us that serious consideration of applicants other than Mayda had been dismissed long before their interviews had even taken place.

What is the lesson students in this occupational program are being taught about professional conduct in the business world?

That hard work will be rewarded by rejection in deference to personal relationships?

That the will of the majority will be overridden by the personal agenda of the powerful?

That fairness has no place in the real world?

That deception and corruption reap rewards and that honesty just doesn't pay?

That it is who you know not what you know that really counts?

That your mentors will ultimately betray you?

As a result of this experience, many disillusioned staff members have decided to abandon their career goals or, like me, will be pursuing those goals elsewhere. Few good students are remaining behind.

The entire department is in chaos. I wish Ms. Mayda much luck on her new job. She will need it.

I am grievously disappointed in all of the journalism instructors who colluded to create such inequity. All of us had looked up to our advisors for encouragement and guidance.

It is impossible for me to remain part of a department whose ethics appear to be so easily contaminated.

During my four semesters as a journalism major, I have learned much from my instructors. Many important techniques and much information has been imparted, providing me with invaluable knowledge to prepare me for my new career.

But I have learned something far beyond sentence structure and news reporting from them as well. I have affirmed something about myself that I hope is true of others.

I have learned that I cannot voice my anger at corruption without standing firmly behind my words. I have learned that my values are stronger than my fears.

I have also learned that injustice can be found everywhere, even in places I can least afford to find it. I now know that when that happens, I have to expose it, despite the personal cost. To do less would make me a hypocrite.

I have learned that as an individual, you either stand for justice, or you do not.

That is why, despite the risk, I am now taking a stand for human dignity, encouraging others to take action after I am gone.

Cifarelli believes I am "burning my bridges" behind me. If this is so then I must remember there are some places one should never return.

But this is not a private corporation and what is best for "the Paper" doesn't count because this is a community college and what is best for the student is what should count.

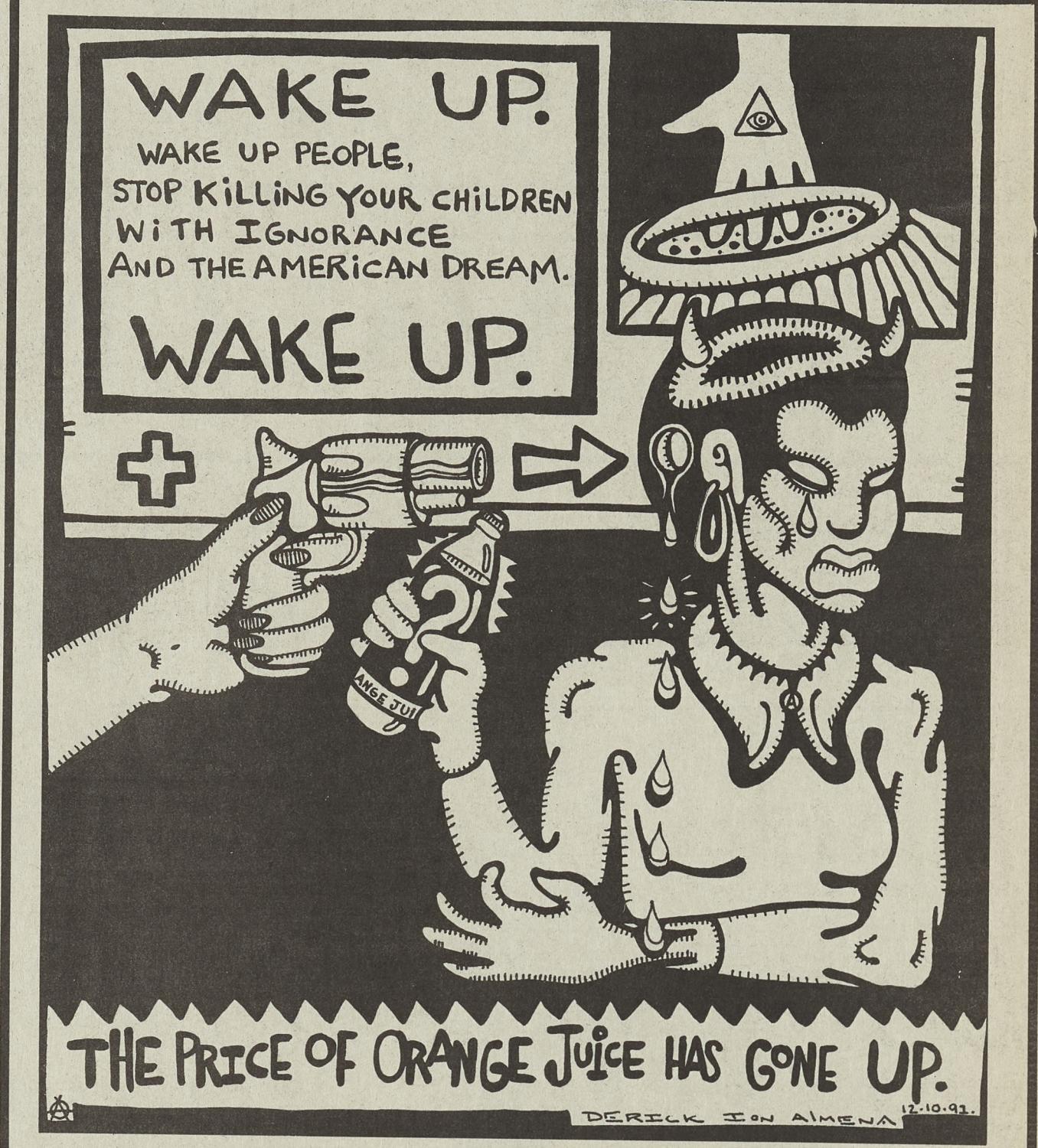
The students of this department are being cheated. They have been sent a message that if you work hard each semester on this paper you can not expect fairness.

Due to the hostility now permeating this department many of my colleagues feel as though they have been forced out of the public school education of their choosing.

An education that they have sought in order to obtain an occupational degree which would not only provide an opportunity in a profession but also enable a successful transfer to CSU schools which offer undergraduate degrees in Journalism.

This is not the type of education I thought I would end up with at the completion of my Associate of Arts degree. In fact, I was told I would have to get out "into the real world" to learn ugly, painful lessons like these.

As I spread my wings and fly off to CSUN I will recall fondly my many good friends; however, I am saddened by the bitter end to my Valley College experience and I can only hope the sting of bitterness will serve to remind me to stay on my guard.



One last word from 'our' EIC

By JENNIFER CASE
Editor in chief

When I was eight, Valley College was the only place I ever wanted to go to school. Now, unfortunately, I can't wait to leave.

It's not that I didn't get an education here. Although there are some dedicated teachers and students, the ones that weren't so dedicated taught me the most.

I learned that ethics, fairness, and truth, the main staples of journalism, could be shoved in a corner and forgotten when power and egos are at stake.

I learned that the very people entrusted to teach the journalism code of ethics chose not to follow that code themselves and thereby have neglected their responsibilities as teachers of this code.

When the actual interviews were held, Anna Villa, a staff writer who has been Sports Editor twice, and News Editor once, got five minutes of the interviewers time.

I learned that some teachers in the department don't practice what they teach.

I also learned that talent really means nothing if you know the right people.

But the saddest thing I learned came when the application process to choose a new editor began.

Apparently, previous work as page editor of the *Star* had been dropped as a prerequisite to be the editor in chief of this publication because the deciding panel chose Chris Mayda, a first year journalism student who hasn't been to newspaper staff meetings or worked on production.

The process was unfair from the beginning. First of all, the way the application process was held was unprofessional, to say the least. Out of six applicants, I know of four that said the same thing.

When I reapplied for the position, I was first told that more copies of the application would have to be run off.

After I said I wouldn't leave until I got one, the advisor, Tony Cifarelli, produced one, but told me I was "wasting my time" because he had already made up his mind. He also told me I could not run for the position again because it was not allowed.

When I asked him for it in writing, he could produce nothing. Incidentally, two other editors have held the position for two consecutive semesters.

Several other applicants said Cifarelli was rude and discouraging when they asked for applications.

One of these applicants, Jae Levine Weiss just finished her own book which is out on the stands, was voted Writer of the Year two years in a row, was Editor in chief of *Crown* magazine the Fall Semester 89, and has been a staff writer for the *Star* for over a year.

When the actual interviews were held, Anna Villa, a staff writer who has been Sports Editor twice, and News Editor once, got five minutes of the interviewers time.

Mayda, who is in her first semester here, got a half an hour with them and also got the position.

What convinced the panel to choose her over someone with more experience on the paper we will never know.

Next semester, two staff writers are transferring to another school to complete their degrees and work with any editor but Mayda.

Meanwhile, the new editor waits on the sidelines, chomping at the bit to get into power.

As I look back on the semester, this staff really worked hard. Almost living here, we put in countless unpaid hours, set our outside social lives aside, and focused on the quality and content of the paper.

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

It hasn't been easy, though. Operating on a cut budget, scarce supplies, and a small staff, we brought the paper to an award-winning level.

After a year and a half of loving this paper, we are all disappointed in most of the leaders of this department. I only hope the new staff will love it as much as we did.

Flying the coup

(sic)

By KIM THRASHER
Opinion Editor

As this is my last semester at Valley, and this issue being my last opportunity to write for the *Star*, I feel compelled to share some thoughts on my growth experience here at Valley over the past three years.

In any life cycle there must be a birth and it is to the Art Department that I owe thanks for the birth of this collegiate child. Returning to school after years away can be a frightening experience. It was the faculty of the Art Department that made me feel as though I could make it.

To the Biology Department I owe thanks for teaching me a new way to see the world, for teaching me that

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Published each Thursday throughout the school year by students in the advanced writing, editing, photography and typesetting classes of the journalism department.

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S'54, S'55, S'56, S'57, S'58, S'59, F'59, S'60, S'61, S'62, F'62, S'63, S'64, S'65, F'65, S'66, S'67, F'67, S'68, F'69, S'70, F'70, S'71, F'71, S'72, F'72, S'73, S'74, F'74, S'75, F'75, F'76, S'77, F'77, S'78, F'78, S'79, S'80, F'80, F'82, S'83, F'83, S'84, F'84, S'85, F'85, S'86, F'86, S'87, F'87, S'88, F'88, S'89, F'89, S'90

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★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS

The *Valley Star* is happy to receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers.

The *Star* reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations.

Letters should be signed and, if applicable, include student's major and ID number. Letters may be presented to the *Valley Star* office, Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.





TROUPERS FOR THE TROOPS—James Caan and Bette Midler star as USO entertainers in *For The Boys*.

Movie review

Bette your bottom dollar

By EVA R. YELLOZ
Staff Writer

A money maker it's not and special effects are non-existent, but for my \$7.50 I counted on some laughs and comedic fulfillment. Instead I walked out of the GCC in Sherman Oaks a little more distraught than I expected.

In *For the Boys*, Bette Midler is a powerful actress with a "knock 'em dead" voice. *For the Boys* spans five decades in a matter of 145 minutes. It's comedy and drama, it's musical and political. It's also a lesson in history and a moral overview of the American climate that changed so drastically between WWII and the Vietnam War.

Midler, who portrays singer Dixie Leonard, was sent to entertain U.S. troops in England. She teafns up with Eddie Sparks, played by James Caan, and captures the hearts of the G.I.s when she belts out love songs, parodies and double entendres alluding to profanities. She starts out as a sidekick and straightwoman but steals the show.

Her warmth and charisma devastate her male counterpart, who soon learns Midler is "good for business."

As the years pass, their lives join through the medium of T.V. and again entertaining the Korean troops on the front.

Each war shows the change of mood along with the change of music and morality.

Midler and Caan age gracefully but not without internal scars caused by a one-night affair they have while performing in Korea.

All bases are touched, even the McCarthy era and all its inequities. The clincher is Midler and Caan's comeback as USO performers during the Vietnam War. Strong U.S. patriotism was the theme in prior wars. On the other hand, apathy, disgust and dissonance was the "spinal chord" in the late '60s and early '70s. Soldiers were no longer Yankee Doodie Dandies ready to die for the red, white and blue, but now were sullen young men far from home. They were disoriented, drugged and didn't know or remember why they were fighting the war.

Midler joins her only son who is fighting in the Vietnamese jungle. She once again collaborates with Caan for a special performance over the DMZ. In this war there are no more fun and games on stage. Simple smiles and lusty songs no longer

satisfy the soldiers thirst for entertainment. This war sucks and the boys want "out."

Midler understands this all too well, but Caan, (with his external facade of macho man always in check), remains the "Zorro" of wartime performers.

At the film's end, an aura of pathos is felt when the Hollywood community offers awards to both Caan and Midler for their 50 years of entertainment to American servicemen. Both in their eighties, they accept their trophies and do an arthritic dance and a few Vaudeville lines crackle through their antique vocal chords. A little moralizing between Midler and Caan comes across too late. Come on! Isn't everyone human? Who knows when we'll pay for our pleasures—and how we'll withstand the pain.

For the Boys starts out entertaining and lighthearted and then becomes laced with personal tragedy and our country's patriotic demise. It sends a message across to the audience through song and dance, of how war is demoralizing and how society is affected from the infantrymen who lose their lives in the battlefield, to the performers who lose their souls on stage.

Play Native American

By CHRIS MAYDA
Staff Writer

The veins of America run rich with her native inhabitants' untold tales. In December, two LAVC students had an opportunity to express their heritage by way of their studies in Ramon Parra's play *Wyandotte* at Hollywood's Nosotros Theater.

Hebe Barrera and Henry Carbo, both theater arts students, play American Indians of the Chumash tribe of Santa Barbara just prior to the arrival of the Spanish on California soil. Their everyday life is interrupted by the appearance of a mysterious stranger of the Miwok tribe, a portent of future upheaval in their lives.

Wyandotte repeated litanies such as "Oh, what a day it is to be today" throughout the text. It was written as a musical but delivered in a poetic chant style. The Greek chorus style is difficult to follow at first but as one gets involved with

the play the motif works due to its character and subject manner. It is a technique that Parra uses to advantage but be attempts too much in the space of a one act play.

As though Parra were trying to rid himself of every devil at once he covers many bases lightly, touching on them and passing by when several would do as plays in themselves.

As though he wants to satisfy the need of minorities, the need for others to know their culture and history, and the need to pass on this treasure to their own, he writes to answer all questions in one play.

He deals with shamanism, hoyas (the ritualistic role of the gay man in native American cultures, a tour-de-force by Jesse Garcia), everyday life and occupations, birth control, music, dance, as well as men and women roles. None of these is the main theme.

It is Parra's first produced play, and a valiant effort of a popular subject in this quincentenary year of Columbus' "discovery" of

America.

Wyandotte is produced by Nosotros Latino Playwrights and focuses on Hispanic cultural works. The current season of five shows was done in a New York-style stage reading, according to producer Miguel Matos. The actors enter a bare stage and read from scripts. Some acting is done, and there is some stage blocking but few props or sets.

The bare stage works because there are so many cultural clues being dropped that the audience is kept busy with the characters and their lives. "I want to stimulate others to know more about the California Indian," said Parra, who had obviously done some research on his subject, but who needs to write 10 plays on what he has learned rather than one. In an after play review, Parra answered questions about the subject. Interest was high and many questions about the culture he portrays were asked. His subject will be increasingly at the forefront in the future.

Events

Music recital today

Lynn, Adams & Friends will perform music for duo pianos, piano, and piano and violin at 11:00 a.m. in Music 106. Free.

Art exhibit opens

The latest works by LAVC art instructor Judith Von Euer will be on display beginning today at the campus art gallery in the art building.

Pope and Reeds

The LAVC Wind Ensemble, with Irvin Pope conducting, will perform Monday Jan. 13 in Monarch Hall at 8:00 p.m. Free.

IMS turns purple

IMS FILMEX will screen Stephen Spielberg's *The Color Purple* on Wednesday Jan. 15 at 1:30 p.m. in BSC 101. Free.



The LAVC Wind Ensemble will perform Monday evening.

ASSOCIATED STUDENT UNION

ELECTIONS NEXT WEEK

Deadline For Applications

Friday - JANUARY 10th, 1992

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Sharp Shots



UP FOR GRABS — Freshman, Stacie Toon, goes up to pluck the ball from the hands of the Moorpark Raiders in Valley's bout against the

There is a potential for a dynamic basketball team, but the Monarchs can't seem to get all the kinks out of their system. Head coach, Jim Stephens, attributes some of the problem to lack of concentration at crucial moments.

The Monarchs were stifled throughout most of the Glendale Tournament on Dec. 18-21 managing a one-point victory over El Camino, 54-53. They later succumbed to College of the Canyons 65-73 and Harbor clinched a 86-90 win over the Monarchs.

However, at the College of the Desert Tournament on Dec. 27-29, the Monarchs managed to turn

around and grasp victories against Lower College Basin of Washington, 79-56, and the March Air Force Team, 92-85. But at the face off against Compton for the championship, the Monarchs were defeated 84-73.

"We were almost there," Stephens said. "We're just making too many mistakes; we're close to being a very good team but we look like a freshman team when we're not. We have some sophomores that need to get going," he said.

Valley hosted Santa Barbara last night, scores were not available at press time.

team, Dec. 10. The Lady Monarchs polished off a 69-50 victory in their first conference bout of the season.

Once again the women's basketball team is streaking towards a winning season. With last night's defeat against visiting Santa Barbara, 79-53, the Lady Monarchs are 2-0 in conference play and 16-3 overall.

Doug Michelson, head coach, said the only thing his team can continue working on is maintaining their strong man-to-man defense and scoring balance.

He also said he is satisfied with his tri-captain team of sophomores, Wendy Bruse, Katina Mines and Felicia Stanley who, he said, are giving the team positive leadership.

The Lady Monarchs will travel to Cuesta Saturday for a 7 p.m. match up.

"Anytime a team travels for three-and-a-half hours, it's tough but I think they [Cuesta] are beatable," Michelson said.

On Dec. 10, the Lady Monarchs won their first bout of the season against the Moorpark Raiders, 69-50.

Wendy Bruse led the team with 17 goals, 15 rebounds, followed by Katina Mines who scored 16 and grabbed 16 rebounds and Amy Horst who fielded 10 goals and rebounded 13.

The casualties in the battle for Editor in Chief

By ANNA VILLA
Sports Editor

I have always loved journalism. I have always loved the thought of having the ability to tell people about what happens to others in the most objective and fairest way possible.

When I joined the *Star* I learned to love working till two in the morning with a bunch of crazy people that loved journalism as much I did. Of course we didn't have to stay so late if we'd just worked diligently without discussing one thing after another as we so often tended to do.

We developed relationships that kept us going through some real hard times. You could say, I found my second home. And those relationships are what are helping all of us get through, what I'll call, the "Battle for Editor-in-Chief".

In short, I applied for the editorship of the *Star* for the upcoming spring semester. I honestly felt that I was a good candidate for the position, but I didn't get it. Apparently the applicant that was eventually chosen only has one semester left to show her stuff before she goes off to UCLA.

The inequities in the process created an outcry which was then turned into charges and counter charges. We were accused of being a clique that doesn't want to accept new "talent."

The effect of all this whole situation has left the Journalism department in shambles. The place that was once a haven for many of us has become a war zone.

The main thing lost in this war was respect. Loss of respect for people who are entrusted with upholding ethics, professionalism and trust.

I have heard that I am among those who are "burning their bridges behind them" by being vocal about this issue. I think not. On the contrary, this has taught me a lesson in what some people are like and from this I will grow stronger and more determined to be a successful journalist and, hopefully, a better human being.

And just as the crowds cheer for the athlete who demonstrates the best ability to score the winning point, I'll be happy to know that, had the selection process been done right, I could have scored the position as Editor. And I'll know that I wasn't among the players who kicked their teammates in the gut just to make the shot.

It is impossible to assess the value of all the friendships that have developed from my stay with the *Star*, much less the pride I felt when

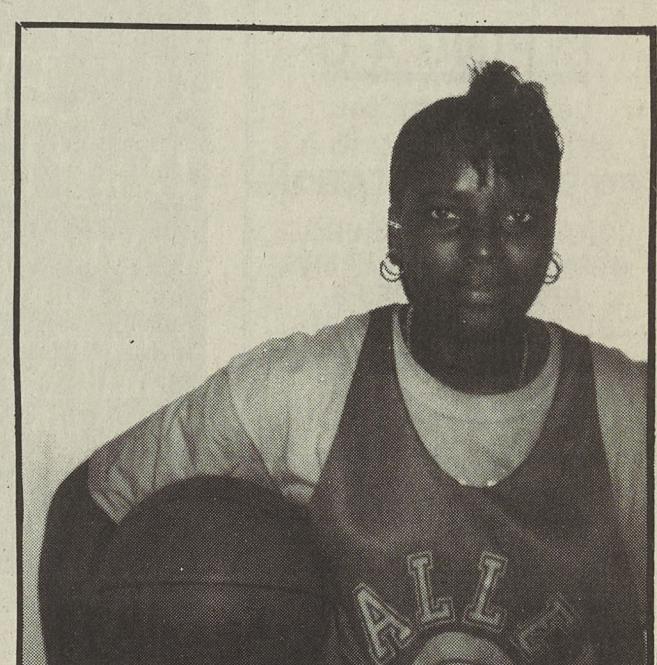
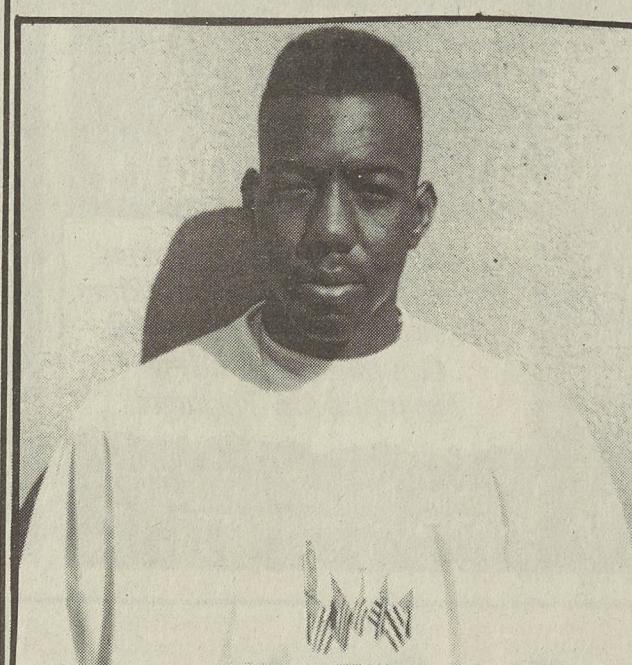
James Harvey, track coach, said that I was the first *Star* reporter he was willing to talk to in five years because he appreciated my work.

I am grateful to all the coaches, especially Harvey and Bill Krauss, swimming coach, for patiently teaching me the basics of their respective sports, for going out of their way to thank me for just doing my job and for showing me that there still are coaches who care for their athletes beyond just one season. I wish all the coaches successful seasons.

Most of all though, I want to extend my gratitude to all those pulling for me and who stood up for me and even put their jobs on the line because they have enough faith and respect for me. It is amazing to see a whole group pull together not only on my behalf but for something that we all believe in... justice.

LAVC ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

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RANDY BROWN
Men's Basketball
LAVC SOPHOMORE - Kennedy High

Randy has averaged 18.7 points per game and 12.7 rebounds per game in 14 games to date. He was selected to All Tournament Team at Mount San Antonio and Orange Coast college tournaments.



KATINA MINES
Women's Basketball
LAVC SOPHOMORE - Sylmar H/S

Katina was selected to All-Tournament Team at Sequoia Invitational. She has also been the leading scorer through the first 10 games at 14.5 and is leading team to a 9-1 start. Katina is also a returning starter & all WSC selection last season.

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